

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF
JAMES SPERO PANAGIS, JR.

VSB DOCKET NO. 25-000-135076

RULE TO SHOW CAUSE
AND
ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION AND HEARING

It appearing to the Board that James Spero Panagis, Jr. was licensed to practice law within the Commonwealth of Virginia on October 12, 2006, and,

It further appearing that James Spero Panagis, Jr., has been convicted of a Crime, as defined by the Rules of Court, Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-1,

It is ORDERED, pursuant to the Rules of Court, Part 6, Section IV, Paragraph 13-22 , that the license of James Spero Panagis, Jr. to practice law within the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and the same is, hereby **SUSPENDED**, effective **April 2, 2025**.

It is further ORDERED that James Spero Panagis, Jr. appear before the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board at the **Virginia ABC Board Headquarters, 7450 Freight Way, Mechanicsville, VA 23116, at 9:00 a.m., on April 25, 2025**, to show cause why his license to practice law within the Commonwealth of Virginia should not be Suspended.

It is further ORDERED that James Spero Panagis, Jr., shall forthwith give notice, by certified mail, of the Suspension of his license to practice law in Virginia to all clients for whom he is currently handling matters and to all opposing Attorneys and the presiding Judges in pending litigation. The Respondent shall also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in his care in conformity with the wishes of his clients. The Respondent shall give such notice

immediately and in no event later than fourteen (14) days of the effective date of the Suspension, and make such arrangements as are required herein as soon as is practicable and in no event later than forty-five (45) days of the effective date of the Suspension. The Respondent shall also furnish proof to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System of the Virginia State Bar within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the Suspension that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements for the disposition of matters have been made. The Board shall decide all issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangements required herein. The burden of proof shall be on the Respondent to show compliance. If the Respondent fails to show compliance, the Board may impose a sanction of Revocation or additional Suspension for failure to comply with the requirements of subparagraph 13-29.

It is further ORDERED that a copy of the PLEA AGREEMENT be attached to this Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension Hearing and made a part hereof.

It is further ORDERED that an attested copy of this Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Hearing, with attachments, shall be mailed to the Respondent by certified, first-class and electronic mail to his Virginia State Bar address of record, at P. O. Box 824, Virginia Beach, VA 23451-0824, and a copy by first-class mail to the alternate address of record, at 320 33rd St., Unit 824, Virginia Beach, VA 23451-1579, and a copy by electronic mail to Emily M. Munn, Esq. and Ron Smith, Esq. Respondent's Counsel and a copy by electronic mail to Seth T. Shelley, Assistant Bar Counsel.

ENTERED THIS 26th DAY OF MARCH 2025

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD



David J. Gogal, Chair

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

v.

Case Nos: CR24001523-00 thru -09

JAMES SPERO PANAGIS, JR.
[REDACTED]

PLEA AGREEMENT

This day came the Defendant **JAMES SPERO PANAGIS, JR.**, his attorneys, Emily M. Munn, Esq., and Ron Smith, Esq., and the Attorneys for the Commonwealth, who represent to the Court that the parties have entered into the following agreement in accordance with Rule 3A:8(C) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia:

1. That the Defendant stands charged with:

- one (1) count of Embezzlement over \$500.00, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-111; 18.2-95 [LAR-2707-F9] (CR24001523-00);
- one (1) count of Uttering a Forged Check, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-172; 18.2-10 [FRD-2521-F5] (CR24001523-01);
- one (1) count of Money Laundering, a felony in violation of Virginia Code § 18.2-246.3 [MON-3100-F9] (CR24001523-02);
- one (1) count of Embezzlement by a Public Officer, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-112; 18.2-10 [LAR-2706-F4] (CR24001523-03);
- one (1) count of Uttering a Forged Check, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-172; 18.2-10 [FRD-2521-F5] (CR24001523-04);
- one (1) count of Embezzlement by a Public Officer, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-112; 18.2-10 [LAR-2706-F4] (CR24001523-05);

- one (1) count of Uttering a Forged Check, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-172; 18.2-10 [FRD-2521-F5] (CR24001523-06);
- one (1) count of Embezzlement by a Public Officer, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-112; 18.2-10 [LAR-2706-F4] (CR24001523-07);
- one (1) count of Uttering a Forged Check, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-172; 18.2-10 [FRD-2521-F5] (CR24001523-08); and
- one (1) count of Embezzlement by a Public Officer, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-112; 18.2-10 [LAR-2706-F4] (CR24001523-09).

2. That the Defendant agrees to plead guilty/ no contest as charged to the following five (5) offenses:

- one (1) count of Embezzlement over \$500.00, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-111; 18.2-95 [LAR-2707-F9] (CR24001523-00);
- one (1) count of Uttering a Forged Check, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-172; 18.2-10 [FRD-2521-F5] (CR24001523-01);
- one (1) count of Embezzlement by a Public Officer, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-112; 18.2-10 [LAR-2706-F4] (CR24001523-03);
- one (1) count of Uttering a Forged Check, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-172; 18.2-10 [FRD-2521-F5] (CR24001523-06); and
- one (1) count of Embezzlement by a Public Officer, a felony in violation of Virginia Code §§ 18.2-112; 18.2-10 [LAR-2706-F4] (CR24001523-07).

3. That in exchange for the Defendant's guilty/ no contest pleas, the Commonwealth moves to *nolle prosequi* the remaining indictments, case numbers CR24001523-02, -04, -05, -08, and -09.

4. That the Commonwealth and the Defendant agree that the Defendant shall be sentenced by the Court in an open sentencing event upon the preparation of a pre-sentence report and sentencing guidelines. Both parties intend to present evidence and argument at the sentencing hearing.
5. That the Defendant agrees to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,685.00.
6. That this plea agreement is the total agreement of the parties and there have been no other inducements, promises, threats, or coercion of any kind suggested to the Defendant by the Attorney for the Commonwealth or any agent of the Commonwealth and this plea agreement is in conformance with the facts of this case.
7. That no Judge of this Circuit Court or any other court participated in any discussion leading to this agreement.
8. That the Defendant agrees to give up the right to ask the Court for sentence modification under Va. Code § 19.2-303, unless agreed to by the Commonwealth.
9. That the Attorney for the Commonwealth, the Attorney for the Defendant, and the Defendant agree that it is no longer necessary to preserve any physical evidence in possession of the Commonwealth or law enforcement that was recovered in this case, and such evidence may be destroyed or returned to its lawful owners as its custodians deem fit. This includes any seized firearms and/ or contraband.
10. That the Defendant agrees to give up the right to appeal this conviction and the Court's sentence.

In support of said agreement, the Defendant, his Attorney(s), and the Attorneys for the Commonwealth hereto affix their signatures.


_____ Defendant


_____ Emily M. Munn, Esq.
Attorney for the Defendant


_____ Ron Smith, Esq.
Attorney for the Defendant

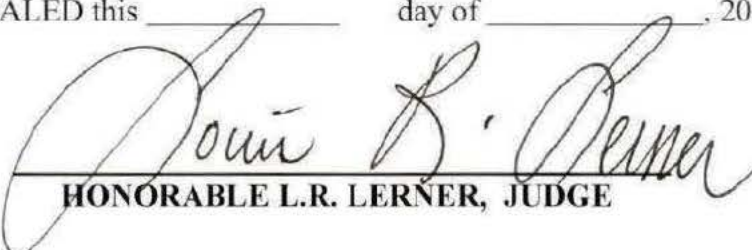

_____ Special Prosecutor Benjamin Garrison, Esq.
Attorney for the Commonwealth


_____ Special Prosecutor Jeffrey Einhaus, Esq.
Attorney for the Commonwealth

File this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Accepted this 21st day of MARCH, 2025.

Rejected and ORDERED SEALED this _____ day of _____, 2025.


_____ **HONORABLE L.R. LERNER, JUDGE**